

10/660,270

ERICP342USA

REMARKS

Following entry of the above amendments, claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-39 will be pending. Claims 16 and 26 have been canceled. Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of claim 16, and to depend upon claim 1. Claims 22 and 27-31 have been amended to depend upon claim 17. A missing word has also been added to claim 28.

Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants select without traverse Invention I, claims 1-15, drawn to a solid material. Claims 17-25 and 27-39 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 1, making claims 17-25 and 27-39 at least eligible for rejoinder as described in MPEP 821.04.

Election of Species Requirements

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 5 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse a solid material having aluminum as a reducing agent, iron oxide powder as a metallic compound powder, sand as a heat retaining material, and sodium silicate as a binder. All of the pending device claims (claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-31) read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-14, 17-25, and 27-30 are generic to all of the species of the requirement.

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 6 of the Action, Applicants elect traverse an insulating material being present, the insulating material being a ceramic material that includes a ceramic blanket, and the insulating material covering at least part of an outer surface of a solid material, while leaving a side of the outer surface of the solid material uncovered. All of the pending device claims (claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-31) read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-8, 14, and 15 are generic to all of the species of the requirement.

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 7 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse an exothermic ignition material being present, with the

10/660,270

ERICP342USA

exothermic ignition material including a powdered mixture of a reductant material and a metal oxide. All of the pending device claims (claims 1-15, 17-25, and 27-31) read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-13, 15, 17, and 26-31 are generic to all of the species of the requirement.

In response to the election of species requirement in paragraph 7 of the Action, Applicants elect without traverse the embodiment shown in Figs. 8-10 of the application, a device having a built-in exothermic ignition material in a protrusion or knob. Claims 1-15, 17, and 22-31 read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-8, 14, and 15 are believed to be generic to all of the species of the requirement.

Applicants' acquiescence to the election of species requirements should not be construed as agreement with the propriety of these requirements. The elections made herein should not be taken as any sort of admission by Applicants regarding the degree of distinctiveness of the elected or non-elected species.

Conclusion

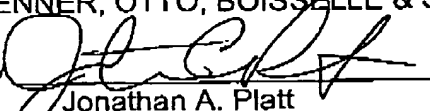
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this paper. In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. ERICP342USA).

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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